



Congressman

**Wally
Herger**

Reports from Washington

107th Congress - First Session

Volume Two



Dear Friends,

This spring I held a series of ten Town Hall meetings throughout our Northern California Congressional District. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to share your views with me. I'd also like to thank the thousands of Northern Californians who returned the questionnaire printed in the last newsletter. Your input is crucial for effective representation in Washington.

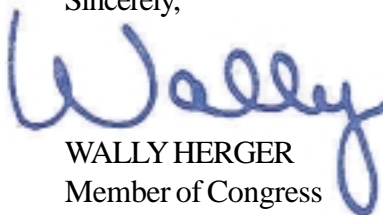
Exemplifying the "new tone" in Washington, the House of Representatives and the Administration of President George W. Bush have accomplished much, working together to strengthen our economy and enacting a \$1.35 trillion tax relief law for the American people. In addition, the House and the Administration have worked hard to bolster our national defense, addressing issues of military retention by focusing considerable resources on cost-of-living salary increases and improvements in housing for our men and women in uniform. I am also happy to announce that the Global Hawk UAV mission will be coming to Beale Air Force Base. This next generation surveillance mission stands to strengthen the strategic importance of the Northern California community to our national defense for years to come.

But there is still much more to be done. We must work together to bring balance to the Endangered Species Act. As you may know, a government-caused disaster in the Klamath Basin is receiving national attention. Sadly this is not the first time the ESA has come into conflict with the legitimate interests of our local communities and it will not be the last unless we can work to successfully modernize this 1973 law.

We also need to focus on protecting our Northern California interests during the continuing CALFED process. Our region is the starting point for 80% of California's water. As such, our Northern California resources are being increasingly tapped to provide for the water needs of Southern California residents, farms and businesses. We must ensure that any CALFED plan protects our water rights first and supports substantial, adequate water storage options that give all Californians additional flexibility in drought and flood years.

I will continue to fight for the interests of Northern California, working to bring fairness to our national environmental policies. As always, I encourage you to share with me your thoughts on what actions Congress should take on these and other issues.

Sincerely,


WALLY HERGER
Member of Congress



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Tax Reform for America's Families



Americans are overtaxed and deserve relief in the form of a tax code which values hard work and rewards entrepreneurship and innovation. Consider that last year the federal tax burden on the American people, measured as a percentage of our nation's economy was the highest in peacetime history. The tax reform law reverses this trend.

President Bush pledged to work with Congress to lower the record-high tax burden facing American families, individuals, and businesses. Now, just nine months after inauguration day, taxpayers across America have begun receiving their hard-earned tax rebate checks. Totalling \$600 for married couples, \$500 for single heads of household and \$300 for individuals, these rebates are a good first step towards a fairer and more just tax system.

On June 7th President Bush signed into law the most comprehensive reform of our nation's tax laws in two decades. This common sense legislation, which I strongly supported from my position on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, will allow American taxpayers to keep \$1.35 trillion of their own money over the next ten years. As such, this new law represents a positive shift of power out of Washington, D.C. and back to individuals and families.

Rather than the government deciding which groups of taxpayers deserve tax relief, the new law reduces tax rates across

the board to benefit all Americans. Lower marginal rates will spur the economy at a time of economic uncertainty and put more dollars back in the pockets of consumers.

Further, the tax reforms help to correct two of the most egregious provisions of our tax laws: the marriage penalty and death tax. The federal government should not punish marriage and confiscate family farms and small businesses that have been built up over a lifetime. The new law doubles the child tax credit, from \$500 to \$1,000 per child. The legislation also modernizes our nation's pension laws, so that more Americans can make use of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and 401(k)s.

The President has delivered on his promise to allow hard working Americans to keep more of what they earn. I intend to continue working with the Administration to make sure that those who work hard, save and invest will not be penalized by the tax code for doing so. After all, the government should work for the people, not the other way around.



ESA Update: Klamath Basin Tragedy



You may have heard about the tragic, government-caused disaster in the Klamath Basin, which borders the northern part of our Congressional District and southern Oregon. Nearly 1,500 family farmers and scores of agriculture-related businesses were told that there would be no water this year. Based on nothing more than the best guess of several federal government biologists, every drop of water was diverted to protect two species of fish because the Endangered Species Act (ESA) required it. For the first time in the hundred-year history of the project, the Klamath Basin has zero water to irrigate. As a result, the economy of an entire community of 70,000 people is being bankrupted.

Tragically, this has become the "poster child" for the destructive power of the ESA and how radical environmentalism is severely harming Americans and our Western way of life. All too often, well-intentioned environmental laws are exploited with devastating results to local communities - in many cases placing public health and safety in jeopardy. While the battlefield

has changed over the years, each fight is eerily similar. Whether it be over forests, rivers or agricultural lands, balance and common sense is pitted against an unyielding and anti-growth agenda.

This battle is raging throughout the West, but nowhere is it more apparent or more dramatic than in our own back yards. One hundred fifty-one people have died in head-on collisions on a stretch of road in Butte and Yuba counties over the past 10 years. Yet a highway expansion project to improve the safety of this road is

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This is the "poster child" for the destructive power of the ESA.



Congressman Herger spoke at the Klamath Basin "Bucket Brigade" about the need to update the Endangered Species Act. Herger is the sponsor of H.R. 2389, which highlights the damage to the local economy by seeking to compensate individuals in the Basin for losses due to the shut-off of irrigation water by the Department of the Interior.

Congressman Herger's 2001 Questionnaire Results

Thousands of Northern Californians responded to the issues survey printed in the last "Reports from Washington." I want to thank each of you that responded. Your input is very important in determining how I can better represent you in Congress. I have reprinted the questions and the results of this year's survey below.

1. Would you support returning more education policymaking and funding decisions from Washington to the local level?

Yes 85% No 7% Undecided 8%

2. Do you support President Bush's \$1.6 trillion tax relief plan?

Yes 67% No 25% Undecided 8%

3. Would you support increasing the amount of relief under the President's tax proposal by reducing the growth of the federal government in the future?

Yes 77% No 14% Undecided 9%

4. Some say that since the end of the Cold War our military readiness - our ability to confront contemporary threats - has waned as new threats have evolved, such as those from terrorist organizations. Do you support increasing funding for our national defense to confront the conflicts of the 21st century?

Yes 77% No 17% Undecided 6%

5. Would you support the President's plan to swiftly implement a theater Nuclear Missile Defense (NMD) system to safeguard against the potential threat of nuclear attack from hostile nations?

Yes 59% No 26% Undecided 15%

6. Do you favor foreign debt relief proposals that "forgive" the debt that third world nations owe the United States because of their inability to pay?

Yes 19% No 58% Undecided 23%

7. Approximately \$800 billion of the \$5.7 trillion national debt is long-term debt, such as 30-year Treasury bonds, that cannot be paid off without paying significant penalties. As long as all other debt is paid down now, do you believe we should avoid penalties by not retiring long-term debt until it matures?

Yes 68% No 12% Undecided 20%

8. Do you support constructing more on-stream hydroelectric facilities to meet California's growing water supply and electricity needs?

Yes 73% No 18% Undecided 9%

9. Would you support oil and gas exploration both offshore and in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), as long as it is done in a clean and environmentally sound manner?

Yes 70% No 25% Undecided 5%

10. Would you support nuclear power generation as a means of augmenting California's electricity supplies?

Yes 63% No 23% Undecided 14%

11. Do you believe the current Administration should "roll back" President Clinton's roadless rulemaking, national monument designations and other environmental initiatives that were not subject to full public scrutiny or congressional review?

Yes 70% No 24% Undecided 6%

12. On the whole, do you believe President George W. Bush is doing a good job?

Yes 67% No 18% Undecided 15%

13. On the whole, do you believe Congress is doing a good job?

Yes 31% No 33% Undecided 36%

ESA Update *continued from page 2*

being delayed because of the ESA. In the same area, construction of a high school is being needlessly held up at taxpayer expense in the name of the ESA. Our forests are vulnerable tinderboxes, waiting for a spark. The radical environmentalists have prevented implementation of responsible forest management policies to protect our communities. Much of our current energy crisis - and our impending water crisis - can be attributed to extreme environmental policies that are slowing much needed infrastructure construction, improvements and repairs.

We need not sacrifice human health and economic well-being in order to protect the environment. With advances in modern science and technology, we have seen the impossible become possible. Using this knowledge, I'm convinced we can both protect the environment and provide for human needs. It does not need to be an either-or proposition.

Congress and the President must join together and fight to restore balance to well-intentioned laws that have run amok.

Only then will we be able to improve the safety of our highways, provide for our children's education, build facilities that store sufficient water to meet our state's growing population and create the infrastructure needed to ensure our lights stay on in California. Congress never intended - and the American public would not want - federal laws that prevent us from doing what is in the best interest of our citizens.

In order to be successful, everyone must continue to discuss the Klamath Basin tragedy. As these issues continue to gain national attention, the public will become aware of the real-world consequences of radical environmentalism and the true intentions of these groups. My hope is that with an Administration committed to balance, combined with the efforts to build public awareness, we can and will be able to modernize the ESA.

For more information on the Klamath Basin and Congressman Herger's efforts to update the Endangered Species Act, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the internet.



Legislative Update

Congressman Herger:

- ▶ Introduced H.R. 2, the "**Social Security and Medicare Lockbox Act of 2001**," which would prohibit Congress from using funds from the Social Security and Medicare trust funds for unrelated purposes. **Passed in House. Pending in Senate.**
- ▶ Voted in favor of H.R. 2653, the "**Bipartisan Patient Protection Act of 2001**," that grants strong patient protections and ensures timely access to high quality health care for millions of Americans. **Passed in House. Pending in Senate.**
- ▶ Introduced H.R. 2389, the "**Klamath Basin Government-Caused Disaster Compensation Act**," which would require the Secretary of the Interior to compensate individuals in the Klamath Basin for economic losses due to a no-water decision by the Department of the Interior. **Pending in House.**
- ▶ Voted for H.R. 2505, a measure which would **ban Human Cloning** as well as cloning experiments on human embryos. **Passed in House. Pending in Senate.**

- ▶ Supported the successful passage of the **President's Comprehensive Energy Policy**, the SAFE Act (H.R. 4) to institute a long-term national energy policy by focusing on increased conservation efforts as well as bolstering our domestic energy production. **Passed in House. Pending in Senate.**
- ▶ Introduced **Biomass Equity Act of 2001**, which provides tax incentives to businesses that use renewable biomass, such as forest thinning and agricultural byproducts, to produce electricity. **A modified version of the bill Passed the House** as part of the SAFE Act.
- ▶ Actively supported and voted for **\$20 million in emergency aid** for the devastated farmers of the Klamath Basin, included as part of the President's 2001 supplemental spending request. **Signed into law by President Bush.**
- ▶ Supported passage of the **Iran and Libya Sanctions Extension Act**, which seeks to reduce government sponsored terrorism in those countries by discouraging foreign corporations from engaging in trade with Iran and Libya. **Passed in House.**

Congressman Herger Participates in July Fourth Celebration

Pictured here, at the "Let Freedom Ring Celebration" in Bidwell Park, Congressman Herger talks with 12-year-old Audrey Arn about being a member of Congress. Throughout the day, Herger spoke with many constituents about topics ranging from tax relief for all Americans to promoting growth in local economies.



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